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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/494,877	01/31/2000	Zhigang Fang	70239-00086	4072
58688	7590	08/21/2009	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP P.O. BOX 2207 WILMINGTON, DE 19899		YANG, JIE		
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				1793
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		08/21/2009		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/494,877	FANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JIE YANG	1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,7,11-14,19-21,25-27,29,33,34,37 and 41-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,7,11-14,19-21,25-27,29,33,34,37 and 41-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 7, 11-14, 19-21, 25-27, 29, 33, 34, 37, and 41-44 are pending. No amendments to the claims have been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 05-156301 (From abstract and machine translation, thereafter JP'301) as evidenced by Nakamura et al (US 5,934,542, thereafter US'542) and in view of JP 10-284547 (Abstract, figure, and table, thereafter JP'547).

JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and in view of JP'547 is applied to the claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 19-21 for the same reason as stated in the previous rejection dated 1/9/2009.

Claims 13, 33, 34, 37, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sue et al (US 2006/0222853, thereafter, PG'853) in view of JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and in view of JP'547.

PG'853 in view of JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and in view of JP'547 is applied to the claims 13, 33, 34, 37, 41, and 42 for the same reason as stated in the previous rejection dated 1/9/2009.

Claims 25-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sue et al (US 2006/0222853, thereafter, PG'853) in view of JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and inveiw of JP'547.

PG'853 in view of JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and in view of JP'547 is applied to the claims 25-27 and 49 for the same reason as stated in the previous rejection dated 1/9/2009.

Claims 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sue et al (US 2006/0222853, thereafter, PG'853) in view of JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and inveiw of JP'547.

PG'853 in view of JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and in view of JP'547 is applied to the claims 43 and 44 for the same reason as stated in the previous rejection dated 1/9/2009.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 5/11/2009 with respect to claims 1, 7, 11-14, 19-21, 25-27, 29, 33, 34, 37, and 41-44 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are summarized as follows:

A) Regarding rejection for claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 19-21, JP'301 does not disclose the use of WC and the Invar or Super Invar powder disclosed in JP'301 has a material composition that includes materials in addition to those within the scope of the Applicants' claims in view of "consisting essentially language. JP'547 fails to disclose a binder alloy having the same material make up as Applicants' binder in independent claims 1 and 14, Nakamura et al(US'542) includes materials in addition to those within the scope of the Applicants' claims in view of "consisting essentially language.

B) Regarding rejection for claims 13, 33, 34, 37, 4, and 42, Sue fails to disclose a binder alloy having the specific material content recited in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 33.

C) Regarding rejection for claims 25-27 and 29, and the rejection for claims 43 and 44, these claims are not obvious in view of the combination of noted references for the same reasons presented above as in applied to independent claim 1, since claims 25 and 43 also recites the specific content of the binder alloy using the "consisting essentially of" language.

Examiner's responses are as follows:

Regarding the arguments A) and C), the Applicants' arguments are against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091,

231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In the instant case, JP'301 teaches mixing Super INVAR powder and carbid ceramic powder in 75:25 to 25:75 mixture and the mixture is sintered with organic binder (Abstract and paragraph [0006] of JP'301). JP'547 teaches WC dispersed in a phase of Co (abstract of JP'547) and Nakamura et al (US'542) teaches the specific Super INVAR composition. The detail discussions and motivations to combine these references can refer to the previous office action marked 1/9/2009.

Regarding the limitation of “consisting essentially of” in the instant claims, the transitional language “consisting essentially of” is construed as equivalent to “comprising.” See, e.g., PPG, 156 F.3d at 1355, 48 USPQ2d at 1355. If an applicant contends that additional steps or materials in the prior art are excluded by the recitation of “consisting essentially of,” applicant has the burden of showing that the introduction of additional steps or components would materially change the characteristics of applicant’s invention. *In re De Lajarte*, 337 F.2d 870, 143 USPQ 256 (CCPA 1964). See MPEP 2111.03. In the instant case, the applicant has not shown that the introduction of the additional alloy elements of the cited prior art would materially change the characteristics of applicant’s invention, for example, the Applicants disclose in the instant specification (page 3, summary of the invention) that:

Low coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) thermal expansion Cermet composition of this invention generally comprise a hard phase material and a ductile phase binder alloy, wherein the binder alloy is specially designed having a CTE that is closely matched to the CTE of the hard phase material. Hard phase materials used to form low CTE compositions of this invention include cermets having a hard grain component selected from the group of carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, and borides formed from refractory metals such as W, Ti, Mo, Nb, V, Si, Hf, Ta, and Cr. The ductile phase binder alloy is formed from a mixture of metals selected from the group consisting of Co, Ni, Fe, W, Mo, Ti, Ta, V, Nb, C, B, Cr, and Mn.

The Examiner notes that Applicants have not provided any persuasive evidence to show that the additional elements in JP'301 in view of US'542 and JP'547 would materially change the properties of the claimed mixture of WC with binder alloy.

Regarding the argument B, the applicants' arguments are against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In the instant case, Sue et al (PG'853) teaches a roller cone rock and ceramic WC can be used as cutting inserts in the roller cone rock bits, where the WC is combined with alloys from the group consisting of Co, Ni, Fe, and others (Paragraph [0009] of PG'853) as recited in the instant claims 43 and 44, JP'301 as evidenced by US'542 and in view of JP'547 teaches the mixture composition as discussed in the rejection for the instant claim 1. Therefore, known work in one field of endeavor may prompt variations of it for use in either the same field or a different one based on design incentives or other market forces if the variations are predictable to

one ordinary skill in the art. The detail discussions and motivations to combine these references can refer to the previous office action marked 1/9/2009.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jie Yang whose telephone number is 571-270-1884. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-2721244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1793

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JY

/Roy King/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793